

The eBorneo Knowledge Fair

Community Engagement for Impact

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Vice Chancellor UNIMAS

F O R E W O R D

As the world prepares itself for the Industrial Revolution 4.0, the lessons learned by both the researchers and the community more than a decade down the road has now converged to the eBorneo Knowledge Fair. The fair serves as a platform for continued dialogue and interaction between the indigenous communities of Borneo and the relevant stakeholders on future development relating to the emerging knowledge economy.

ABOUT THE BOOK

This book describes an innovative event that takes place regularly in the highlands of the Heart of Borneo. It showcases how research by Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS) into the use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) has contributed, and continues to contribute, towards sustainable development among the indigenous communities in the Borneo Highlands and elsewhere in Malaysia. The eBorneo Knowledge Fair is a unique gathering of researchers, officials, professionals and community representatives that turns the concept of orthodox conferences on its head. By taking place within an isolated and remote community, it emphasizes the notion that community perspectives come first; with regard not only to the conceptualisation, design and implementation of research, but also to evaluating and making use of its results.

Engaged research is that which regards the needs of its audiences as paramount. Research impact is derived from satisfying those needs. The eBorneo Knowledge Fair targets both, and it is not solely an academic conference. Neither is this book an academic treatise, although researchers and academic institutions may find both the event and the book of interest. Written for the interested reader, the book explains why academic research often fails to see the light of day, and therefore rarely has any influence over those whom it might benefit. It describes the pioneering work that UNIMAS is conducting with its partner communities and how they are benefiting directly from the findings. The Knowledge Fair acknowledges that ICTs work best within innovative processes, but also highlights the necessity to innovate in order to conceive, design, create, test and replicate such processes. That's what the Knowledge Fair does and this book describes how it does it.

